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MANCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announced today that Anthony Payne, age 39, of Manchester, pleaded guilty to a one count information charging possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Payne pleaded guilty on May 10, 2006 before Judge Joseph DiClerico in Federal District Court in Concord.

Manchester uniform police stopped a vehicle in which Payne was the front seat passenger. After detecting a strong odor of marijuana and observing a marijuana cigarette in the center console of the vehicle, Payne and the driver of the vehicle were transported to the Manchester Police station where 36 individually wrapped bags of "crack" cocaine were recovered from Payne.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 22, 2006 before Judge DiClerico.

This case was investigated by the Manchester Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Irish is prosecuting the case.